



**Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 720**

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**Hearing Date:** March 4, 2003  
**Committee On:** Urban Affairs

**Introducer(s):** (Urban Affairs Committee)  
**Title:** Change provisions relating to transit authority jurisdiction and board membership

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- x   Advanced to General File
  - Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senators Combs, Connealy, Friend, Hartnett, Janssen, Landis & Schimek
	No	
	Present, not voting	
	Absent	

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**Proponents:**

Bill Stadtwald  
Gary Ruegg  
Richard Schmeling

**Representing:**

Research Analyst for Urban Affairs  
Metro Area Transit  
ProRail Nebraska

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Jack Cheloha

**Representing:**

City of Omaha

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

This legislation amends the Transit Authority Law in three major particulars.

First, it extends the territorial boundaries of a transit authority created by a metropolitan class city (Omaha being the only Metropolitan Class City). Under current law, the jurisdiction of such an authority extends to “all passenger transportation systems in such city” (without restricting the authority to provide service outside that area) and is coterminous with the boundaries of the city. The qualifications for service on the transit authority board (residency in the metropolitan class city) and the manner of their appointment (by the mayor with the approval of the city council of the metropolitan class city) and the authority to seek a property tax levy are limited to those municipal boundaries.

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This bill would authorize the territory of the authority to extend over not just the city, but also over those areas served by the authority which may be located in (1) the county in which the city is located, (2) any other city or village located in that county, (3) any adjacent county, or (4) any city or village located in such adjacent county. The extension of the authority boundaries beyond those of the metropolitan class city would be subject to the consent of the governing body of the those areas outside of the metropolitan class city limits.

Secondly, it authorizes the authority to certify the property tax levy necessary for its operations to those new areas as well as within the metropolitan class city.

Finally, it extends board membership (set at five members) not just to residents of metropolitan class city, but also to any resident of the area served by the authority. The mechanism for appointment of board members (by the mayor of the metropolitan class city with approval of that city's city council) remains the same.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator D. Paul Hartnett, Chairperson**